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THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 5, Issue 25, December 15, 2009

LCAC Food Drive Provides Dinner For 300 Families



photo by Trudy E. Bell

Volunteers filling the large reinforced potato bags with frozen turkeys, fresh potatoes, and other perishables. Arm outstretched to direct the volunteers is LCAC board member Mike Porter. **Full story on page 9.**

Retail Occupancy Up Citywide

by Melissa Garrett

Citywide, Lakewood continues to see its storefronts filled with new businesses. It's a great sign for the city, especially considering the economic climate that makes it tougher for businesses to start new endeavors, or even grow.

ors, or even grow.

The City of Lakewood's Department of Planning and Development prepares a quarterly commercial space availability report that measures retail occupancy. The latest report, which measured

occupancy as of November 1st, showed that retail occupancy continues to increase citywide.

The report shows that occupancy increased 2% on both Detroit and Madison Avenues, which is significant considering **continued on Page 4**

Mayor To Discuss Community Circulators

by Ziggy Rein

Lakewood Mayor Edward Fitzgerald provided the opportunity to several members of "Riders to Bring Back the Daily Lakewood Circulator" to meet with him on December 1st. The purpose of the meeting was to get an update from the Mayor concerning the current status of the fight to revive Lakewood Circulator service.

Mayor Fitzgerald told the group that he had met with RTA recently. RTA is persisting with offering only one-day-a-week service for six hours a day at a cost of \$15,000. The day and the time of operation of the Circulator will be left up to Lakewood. Although this proposal is not ideal, it's better than nothing. The one-day service could be the basis to eventually go to a 2- or 3-day service. RTA refused his request for five-day-a-week Circulator bus service for \$75,000 a year to be paid by Lakewood, the Mayor said.

Of the twelve Community Circulator routes

only four communities or neighborhoods are seriously considering RTA's proposal. These communities are Lakewood, Kamm's Corners, Euclid, and Tremont. The Mayor will be meeting with representatives of Lakewood High School, the Lakewood YMCA, the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce, the Senior Centers, Lakewood Hospital, Lakewood drug and grocery stores this month regarding funding Circulator bus service a second day during the week. The City of Lakewood has a fleet of two or three buses in operating condition, according to the mayor. He will check with RTA to find out if free Circulator buses RTA offered to the City are in good condition; however, RTA will need permission from the Federal Government to donate buses to communities such as Lakewood, the Mayor told the meeting.

Lakewood got a seat on the Board of the Northeast

Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA), which is responsible for, among other **continued on Page 4**

Councilwoman Antonio Running For Ohio House District 13

On Monday, December 7, Councilwoman Nickie J. Antonio announced her candidacy for election to the Ohio House District 13 in front of Roosevelt Elementary School at 4:30 p.m.

An experienced policy maker and advocate for working people, seniors, families, small business owners and diverse populations including members of the GLBT community, Antonio has served with distinction as a popular and responsive at-large councilmember in Lakewood for the past 4 years and was recently the top vote-getter in her bid for re-election. Antonio enjoyed strong support from labor, women, progres-



Grant student, Isabel Ostrowski winner of the "Why I Love Lakewood" Essay Contest with Patty Ryan, the Director of the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce.

"Why I Love Lakewood"

by Val Mechenbier

The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce that Isabel Ostrowski, a 4th grade student at Grant Elementary School, is the 2009 "Why I Love Lakewood" Essay Contest winner. Nearly 120 essays were submitted by 4th graders from the Lakewood City Schools, Lakewood Catholic Academy, SS. Cyril & Methodius Catholic School, and Lakewood Lutheran School. The panel of six judges used a rubric to assess the originality, organization, descriptive language, and grammar (including

punctuation and spelling) of the essays, and they selected Isabel's as best overall. Characterizing Lakewood as "the most awesomely cool place on the face of the planet", Isabel was enthusiastic about the library, Malley's Ice Cream, seasonal activities, and most of all, the people of Lakewood.

Isabel was awarded a cash prize of \$100 and took the stage with Santa Claus, Congressman Dennis Kucinich, and Mayor Ed Fitzgerald to "flip the switch" on December 5th to turn on the lights in downtown Lakewood during the Light Up Lakewood festivities.



sives, social change and the arts communities.

"Now more than ever, our District needs experienced leadership to take the voice of the people to Columbus," said Antonio, "Access to Excellent Education for all children, Fixing School Funding, Jobs Creation in green and

sustainable technologies, and Innovative Economic Development to stimulate our local economies are the needs of our area that drive my decision to seek this office." "I am humbled by the many calls I have received from people throughout the district, asking me to run for this position," Antonio further states.

Antonio is also uniquely qualified and familiar with the entire district having spent her formative years in Jay Westbrook's Ward 18 (part of HD 13) and another 18 years of community service, owning a home and raising daughters Ariel and Stacey with partner, Jean Kosmac in Lakewood **continued on Page 5**

Lakewood Calendar

This calendar presents various public Lakewood events and notices for the next two weeks (excluding Lakewood Public Library sponsored events found separately on the Lakewood Library page). Calendar items can be submitted at our website at www.lakewoodobserver.com on the Home Page. Whereas this printed calendar listing is limited to non-profit events relevant to Lakewood, our website calendar welcomes all Lakewood events!

Wednesday, December 16

Park System Master Plan Community Workshop #2

6:30 - 8:00 PM, Woman’s Club Pavilion, Lakewood Park
The goal of the park system workshops is to create a forum where residents, community organizations and the City can collaborate to set priorities for our parks. Workshop #2 is a follow-up to the October meeting and will discuss community comments, review draft priorities and outline next steps for 2010.
What is a Park System Master Plan? - a strategy to evaluate, manage and improve our parkland through a collaborative public input process. The plan consider the City’s parks as a system, not individual parks, and works toward consistency in appearance, maintenance and design in a manner that is flexible as the needs of the community change and evolve. For more information contact: Dru Siley, Assistant Director of Planning, 216.529.6634 or planning@lakewoodoh.net

“Tré Gay Taizé”

7 - 8 PM at Liberation United Church of Christ, 13714 Madison Avenue.
Advent is the season leading up to Christmas, a time of anticipation and preparation for the Christmas event. This year, Liberation Church is hosting a series of Advent services on four consecutive Wednesday evenings that we are calling “Tré Gay Taizé” since they are based on the prayer services of the Taizé Community in France. The services are designed to welcome the LGBT community into a contemplative spiritual experience with others in meditation, prayer, music and reflections on Advent from a queer perspective.
The services begin at 7:00 p.m., with light supper served before the service at 6:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to join us for the free supper to meet new friends and share stories over a meal. For more info call 216-521-5556.

Meet Lakewood Author John H. Tidyman at bela dubby.

7:00 PM at bela dubby, 13321 Madison Ave
Lakewood Author John H. Tidyman will be signing his newest book “Gimme Rewrite, Sweetheart...” Tales from the last glory days of Cleveland Newspapers told by the men and women who reported the news. 7-10pm. More info 216-221-4479.

Lakewood High Winter Choral Concert

7:30 PM at Civic Auditorium, 14100 Franklin Blvd.

Free Public Lecture on the Transcendental Meditation program and Holiday Stress

7:30 - 9:00 PM 13617 Detroit Ave, New TM Center in Radiance Organics
There will be a free lecture discussing the effectiveness of the Transcendental Meditation program at eliminating stress and enlivening happiness and bliss in the physiology. The event is sponsored by the Cleveland Foundation for Vedic Science, a non-profit educational organization. For more information call 216-228-8400.

Thursday, December 17

Holiday Thursday Evenings on Madison Ave.

Over seventy Madison Avenue merchants will be open extended shopping hours from 5 to 8 p.m. December weather may be dark and dreary but local storefronts will be lighting up the way to welcome you to explore all the uniqueness and specialties that can be found right here in your neighborhood. See ad Page 13.

Lakewood High Orchestra Winter Concert

7:30 PM Civic Auditorium, 14100 Franklin Blvd.

Friday, December 18

Lakewood Charitable Assistance (LCAC) Christmas Food Drive Your help of time and donations are greatly appreciated! EVENT IS 2 DAYS.

Friday Dec. 18: Canned Food Sorting 10:00am to - 4:00pm;
Non-Perishable Bagging 6:00p- 7:30pm.
Sat. Dec. 19: Perishable bagging and delivery to families 9:00am - Noon.
The location for activities is the Masonic Temple at 15300 Detroit Avenue

Laughter Unleashed

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Brothers Lounge, 11607 Detroit Ave.
Friends with Benefits Improv and Last Call Cleveland team up for an evening of claws-out comedy to benefit Citizens Committee for a Lakewood Animal Shelter. www.brotherslounge.com or www.cclas.info. Or call 216-226-2767.

Peter Pan

7:30 PM, Beck Center for the Arts, Mackey Main Stage, 17801 Detroit Avenue
More shows held Fridays, Saturday, & Sundays through Sunday, January 3. Call 216-521-2540 x10 for schedule. A musical based on the play by James M. Barrie, Music by Mark Charlap and Jule Styne, Lyrics by Carolyn Leigh, Betty Comden and Adolph Green, Directed by Scott Spence. Back by popular demand! The Lost Boys, Darling children, and the dastardly Captain Hook return for another high-flying musical adventure in Neverland. A holiday treat for the entire family. Special family-friendly pricing and group sales discounts available.

Saturday, December 19

Lakewood Charitable Assistance (LCAC) Christmas Food Drive

9 AM to 12 PM, Masonic Temple. See Friday, Dec. 18 listing.

Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance Holiday Happy Hours

3 - 6 PM Detroit Ave. Bunts to Arthur.
Participating merchants will have Happy Hour specials with special For The Guys Theme. Visit www.downtownlakewood.com.

Cleveland Handmade Last Minute Market

10 AM - 6 PM, The Lake Erie Building at the Templar Industrial Park, 13000 Athens.
Together with the Screw Factory Artists and I Made It! Markets, Cleveland Handmade is giving Cleveland another chance to shop locally and buy handmade for the holidays!

Sunday, December 20

Free Christmas Concert Highlights Young Lakewood Musicians

4 PM in the Sanctuary at Lakewood United Methodist Church, 15700 Detroit The concert will feature accomplished Lakewood High instrumentalists. See Page 12 for story.

Monday, December 21

City Council Meeting

1st & 3rd Mondays at 7:30 P.M. Council Chambers, City Hall, 12650 Detroit Ave.

Wednesday, December 23

“Tré Gay Taizé”

7:00 - 8:00 PM Liberation United Church of Christ, 13714 Madison Ave.
See under December 16 listing for more details.

Thursday, December 24

Holiday Thursday Evenings on Madison Ave.

Many Madison shop will stay open Christmas Eve till 8pm. See under Thursday, December 3 and ad on page 13.

Lakewood High Symphonic/Wind Ensemble Winter Concert

7:30 PM Civic Auditorium, 14100 Franklin Blvd.

Visit www.lakewoodobserver.com for more

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Become an Observer!

As a product of citizen journalism, The Lakewood Observer is looking for people, ages 1-100, to get involved in the paper and the city. We are looking for volunteer writers, photographers, designers, and illustrators to help with the production of the paper. It does not matter if you are a professional or amateur, our editorial staff will be glad to help you through the process.

Register to our website Member Center where you can submit stories, press releases, letters to the editor, photos. No need to register to post online calendar or classified ads.

Upcoming Submission	Deadline	Publish Date
Sunday, January 3	Tuesday, January 12	
Sunday, December 20	Tuesday, December 26	

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(l to r) Richard Wyszynski, M.D., John Costin, M.D.,
Ryan Deasy, M.D., Wynne Morley, M.D.,
Matthew Ohr, M.D.

Lakewood Observer

Mayor To Discuss Community Circulators

continued from Page 1

things, the region’s Long-Range Transportation Plan and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). This will offer Mayor FitzGerald an opportunity to voice concerns on behalf of Lakewood’s residents’ public transportation needs. Although RTA

responded to the City of Lakewood’s request by turning over voluminous records, there was a total absence of e-mails relating to employees affected by RTA’s layoffs and similar concerns, Mayor FitzGerald explained.

Mayor FitzGerald offered several suggestions that might be helpful in the quest for daily Circulator service:1.

Prepare specific written proposals with which to lobby elected representatives, such as our Ohio Legislators, U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown, and U. S. Representative Dennis Kucinich, insisting that RTA restore Circulator routes or there won’t be any government funding of RTA. 2. To meet with elected representatives and RTA’s Board of Trustees. 3. Let RTA know every three or four months that we are still around and that we have not given up the fight. 4. Establish contact with similar groups in areas interested in Circulator routes such as Kamm’s Corners, Euclid, and Tremont and thereby unifying our efforts.

“Riders to Bring Back the Daily Lakewood Circulator” recently asked U.S. Congressman Dennis Kucinich’s Lakewood office to arrange a meeting with a few representatives of the

group and Kucinich to find out what reply, if any, Kucinich received to his August 17th letter to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) asking the FTA to fund the daily Lakewood Circulator, and why Kucinich failed to get Federal stimulus money or other Federal money, such as Congress’ ongoing funding of RTA, to restore daily Lakewood Circulator bus service.

“Riders to Bring Back the Daily Lakewood Circulator” will meet in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Lakewood Public Library’s Main Branch on Sunday, January 10, 2010 at 3 p.m. Everyone is cordially invited to attend. Please call “Riders to Bring Back the Daily Lakewood Circulator” at (216) 221-2724 to volunteer to actively help its efforts to bring back the daily Lakewood Circulator.

Retail Occupancy Up

continued from Page 1

Detroit’s 350 storefronts and Madison Avenue’s 300 storefronts.

“While the numbers themselves show a positive outlook for the city, actually seeing these spaces under construction and filling with new tenants feels really good,” said Nathan Kelly, the city’s Planning and Development Director. “There’s more to come in the very near future.”

“Since the report was issued, more new businesses have cropped up in Lakewood. In fact, between Thanksgiving and New Years, a new business is going to open its doors every week in Lakewood.”

Lakewood’s demographic profile, density and walkability are cited by new and prospective tenants as reasons to invest in Lakewood. Lakewood has about 54,000 people residing in 5.6 square miles, the most densely populated area in the region. This is a large

consumer base enabling local businesses to prosper.

Examples of new retail sites in Lakewood include Panera Bread which opened on November 4th in the INA Building at St. Charles and Detroit. The building is undergoing a multi-million dollar renovation and will be accompanied by new tenants in coming months. Across the street, the old Party Station building at 15000 Detroit is being completely renovated and features Five Guys Burgers & Fries which opened right after Thanksgiving. Additional tenants are scheduled to move in after the renovation is complete. Two Dads’ Restaurant also recently opened on the corner of Marlowe and Detroit.

Citywide, new tenants include more restaurants, professional services from architects to law offices, and medical services including a new dental office and a new optometrist.

Haber Elected Lakewood Hospital Foundation Board President

by Kristin Broadbent

The Lakewood Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees recently elected Ken Haber as president. Haber, a Lakewood resident, is chief financial officer of the OM Group, Inc. Active in various civic, business and community organizations, he has been integrally involved in the Lakewood community for more than 30 years. On the Foundation board since May 2008, he has served on the Executive and Finance Committees as well as Lakewood Hospital’s Vision for Tomorrow Leadership Team.

Haber succeeds Brian M. King of Rocky River, who served nearly six years as president and more than 25 years as a trustee. King’s leadership and dedication have been invaluable to Lakewood Hospital Foundation. “His service to this and other community organizations has been an example for all to emulate,” says Kristin Broadbent, director of Lakewood Hospital Foundation. “His gifts of time, talent and treasure over the years are truly appreciated.”

About Lakewood Hospital Foundation Founded in 1956 and guided by



Ken Haber, one of Lakewood’s good guys is now the president of LHF.

a dedicated and civic-minded board of directors, Lakewood Hospital Foundation operates exclusively to steward philanthropic gifts for Lakewood Hospital. The foundation supports the enhancement of hospital programs and services through building lifelong relationships with members of the community, raising funds and dedicating its resources to help meet the needs of those served by the hospital. To learn more about the meaningful ways to support Lakewood Hospital’s lifesaving work, visit lakewoodhospital.org/foundation.

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Lakewood City

Solar Energy and Bus Stops

by Christopher Bindel

Council President Michael Dever called the December 7, 2009 Council Meeting to order at 7:32 P.M. The first order of business was to excuse the absence of Councilman Butler, which was done so unanimously.

Councilman Dever (At-Large) then gave a report from the Committee of the Whole regarding the Historic Interiors Preservation ordinance. At the last council meeting, the ordinance was returned to Council from the Planning Commission with a recommendation that they pass it after visiting it once more in the Committee of the Whole. Revisiting it, the Committee of the Whole decided to defer the vote on it once more so they can look over a report from the Legal Department that they had asked for.

Councilman Tom Bullock (Ward II), Chair of the Public Safety Committee, gave his report on the ordinance which would allow the City's Police force to trade in their old guns for new ones at no cost to them. This trade would save the City \$40,000 in purchasing new hand guns for its officers. After discussing the specifics of the plan, and with the understanding that the guns traded in will be refurbished and sold through licensed dealers, the Public Safety Committee recommended passage. Council accepted the Committee report and passed the ordinance.

Council then placed seven appropriations ordinances for the 2010 budget on second reading and referred them back to the Committee of the

Whole. Councilman Michael Summers (Ward III) announced that there would be budgetary hearings on the mentioned items on Monday, December 14 at 6 P.M. in the City Hall Auditorium. The hearing will discuss those items in detail as well as strategies to cut the budget by over a million dollars.

Councilman Bullock then asked Council to consider an ordinance that would allow the City to create Special Improvement Districts (SID) that aim to encourage the use of solar panels and other renewable energy. These districts would allow commercial and home owners who participate by using solar energy products special assessment financing on their property tax bills at better than market rates. Since the upfront cost for things like solar panels are usually too much to be affordable by the average home or business owner, this program allows them a way to afford them without the large initial cost.

Council received the ordinance and referred it to the Public Works Committee.

Mayor Edward FitzGerald invited Council to recognize the six new members to Lakewood's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Tiffany Fox, Samuel Fancazio, Theresa Griffin, Jakub Mejstrik, Christina Smith & Mike Tuttle completed training to prepare them to respond in the event of a disaster or emergency when police, fire and EMS cannot reach everyone right away.

Mayor FitzGerald continued, announcing a few appointments. First he announced Renee Mahoney as his newest appointment to the Audit Committee. Mrs. Mahoney is filling a vacant seat mid term, and is scheduled to start immediately with the term expiring December 31, 2011. Second he announced Carl Orban as his appointee to the Architectural Board of Review. He is also filling an unexpired term and will begin at the next regularly scheduled meeting until the last meeting in 2010.

The Mayor then asked Council to consider an ordinance that would decriminalize parking tickets and make them a civil, rather than criminal, offence. The hope is by doing so it would encourage violators to pay their tickets as well as make it easier for violators of past years to pay their tickets without greater penalty.

Director of Planning and Development, Nathan Kelly, asked Council to consider allowing the City to enter into an agreement with RTA to identify and purchase an "enhanced transit waiting environment," also known as a bus stop, up to \$25,000. This enhanced bus stop coincides with the Detroit Avenue Streetscape Plan and would be erected in front of the Bailey Building, which is currently under renovation. The idea is to pick a waiting environment that will match the newly renovated areas

of our enhanced downtown Lakewood. This program would be paid for with federal funds reimbursing Lakewood through RTA. As Director Kelly said "we will pick the environment and then make sure RTA has a check for us before we cut ours to purchase it." Councilwoman Nickie Antonio (At-Large) raised the question why RTA wasn't using this \$25,000 on running the newly disbanded Lakewood Circulator instead. Director Kelly responded by saying that RTA received these funds from the Federal Government particularly earmarked for "enhanced transit waiting environments" and, therefore, could not be used for transit itself. Council approved the ordinance.

After the regular agenda items were completed, a last minute add-on was discussed having to do with an item that was in arbitration between the City and the firefighters regarding their contracts. The arbitrator did some fact finding and reported some suggestions to the City. It was suggested by the arbitrator that Council go into executive session to discuss the issue. Executive session is when Council, the Mayor, and related parties discuss the matters at hand behind closed doors. Therefore, at 8:16 P.M. the Council entered executive session and the auditorium cleared.

Council meetings are held every first and third Monday of the month at 7:30 P.M. in the City Hall Auditorium. The next regularly scheduled council meeting will be held on December 21, 2009. For a copy of the agenda or for any other information regarding the Lakewood City Council, you can find it at onelakewood.com/citygovern_council.html.

City Spurring Solar Energy Projects By Finance Programs

by Glenn Campbell

If you're a Lakewood property owner, Ward 2 councilman Tom Bullock and the FitzGerald administration want to make it cheaper for you to go solar. In a letter presented to Lakewood City Council on December 7, Bullock and Mayor Ed FitzGerald proposed that Lakewood take advantage of a new Ohio law that authorizes the state's cities to offer special financing to residential and commercial property owners for solar energy projects within their borders. The law, enacted in July, allows Ohio cities to create special-improvement districts (SIDs) to offer loans at below-market rates for the installation of solar photovoltaic systems (solar panels) or solar thermal projects that provide water heating, process heat, or electricity. Participating property owners agree to a special assessment on their property tax bill to pay the loans back over a period of up to 25 years. The tax bills of property owners who do not wish to participate are unaffected by the program. Participating cities may issue bonds or apply for federal or state grant dollars to fund such financing programs.

"Clean solar power offers important advantages, like stable pricing for pollution-free energy and local jobs in the fast-growing clean energy industry, but the upfront costs frequently make solar installation unaffordable for the average family or business," Bullock says. The state's new solar SIDs authorization "is a

creative new use of an established municipal financing tool to help more businesses and homeowners afford solar projects at little or no cost to the city," he adds.

Beyond the proposal's support for renewable energy, it represents another way to encourage property owners to plant deeper roots in the city, says Nathan Kelly, Lakewood's Director of Planning and Development. "We are trying to build a bevy of tools to help property owners invest in their properties," Kelly explains. "Such investments make homeowners and businesses 'sticky'---or more likely to stay in Lakewood."

Kelly says that Lakewood may need to work with other local municipalities, such as Cleveland or other inner-ring suburbs, to issue a bond to enable the financing at the lowest possible cost to the city. That's because issuing bonds involves certain one-time costs, such as fees for legal counsel and credit ratings, that would be reduced if shared with other cities. Bullock would prefer Lakewood to issue the bond on its own, if possible, to make city the first one in the region to create a solar SID. "I want Lakewood to be first. It would demonstrate our leadership, and it's completely in line with our values," he says. "Being first would help us continue to attract dynamic young people and brand our city as green and innovative."

Several steps must first be taken before the city decides whether to issue

the bond alone or with neighboring communities. The first step, says Kelly, is to build an administrative framework for executing the solar SID, which he hopes to have ready by late in the first quarter of 2010. Another near-term consideration is adopting design standards for solar installations, which Bullock says city council will swiftly turn its attention to. Then comes public education, which Bullock envisions in the form of three or four public sessions held around the city at which printed materials would be distributed and experts would field questions. Public education efforts would overlap with recruiting of participants for the first round of solar projects. Under the new state law, cities that want to create solar SIDs must circulate a petition for eligible property owners to sign to opt in to the program. The petition, which would function as a contract, would prompt city council to pass an ordinance

to formally create the solar SID and provide for and oversee the financing. A SID board of directors would also need to be established to implement the program.

Kelly expects the first financing opportunities under the program to be available by the third or fourth quarter of 2010. Bullock says more information about the process will be made available in the coming weeks. Both Kelly and Bullock say \$2 million in total project financing is a reasonable goal for the first round of solar SID projects. "That's the sweet spot where you start to get the best rates," Bullock explains. Both officials favor a financing target over a targeted number of projects, although Bullock believes a broad group of several dozen homeowners in the city may be interested in participating in the program initially, and both he and Kelly anticipate interest from several of the city's industrial businesses.

Nickie Antonio Running

continued from Page 1
(entirely represented in HD13).

The first in her family to graduate from college, Antonio holds a Master of Public Administration degree from the Maxine Levin College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University and a Bachelor of Science degree in Education from Cleveland State University. A former special education

teacher, adjunct professor and non-profit administrator she has served in numerous capacities as an organizational consultant for non-profit and governmental organizations for over 20 years. Antonio currently administers community planning in a five county region for HIV/AIDS programs.

Lakewood Public Library Events

All Events and Programs Are Free And Open To The Public

CHILDRENS & YOUTH SERVICES

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

THE ZONE: For students in kindergarten through fifth grade
Get in the Zone and sign up for a week of themed activities! Visit www.lkwdpl.org/youth for the list of fun and exciting programs just for kids. To register, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140. The Zone will be closed for school holidays and vacations.

Monday – Thursday at 4:00 p.m. in the Children’s and Youth Services Department at Main Library and Madison Branch

CREATION STATION: Students kindergarten to fifth grade
Join us for crafts each and every Friday after school. There is no need to register; however, to schedule groups, please call Main Library (216) 226-8275, Ext. 140 or Madison Branch (216) 228-7428. Fridays, September 11 – May 28 at 4:00 p.m.
Children’s & Youth Services Department at Main Library & Madison Branch

HOMEWORK ER: Students kindergarten through eighth grade
Need help with your homework or just want a cool place to work? Come to the Homework Room for help and resources. No need to register. Tuesday, September 8 – Thursday, May 27.

Monday – Thursday, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., in the Children’s and Youth Services Department at Main Library and Madison Branch

YOUTH READING PROGRAMS

CHOOSE YOUR READING ADVENTURE: For youth in 6th through 8th grade

Thursdays @ 7:30pm - 8:30pm; What to read after a page-turning mystery? You be the judge of that. Venture inside a vampire’s lair, set sail on an 18th century pirate ship, or ensnare yourself in the world of fairies. Each month, vote for which title to read from a different genre. To register, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275 ext. 140. **Main Library Multipurpose Room**
Thursday, December 17: Fantasy
Thursday, January, 21: Horror

FAMILY PROGRAMS

FAMILY WEEKEND WONDERS

Make the Library a part of your family weekend time with programs featuring stories, activities, music and crafts. Our staff will provide materials and ideas for families wishing to continue reading and storytelling at home. The programs are free and there is no need to register in advance.

Main Library: Friday: 10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m.
Saturday: 10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., 4:00p.m.; Sunday: 2:00 p.m.
Madison Branch: Friday 10:30 a.m., Saturday 11:30 a.m., Sunday 3:00 p.m.
December 18, 19, 20: Toy Box Treasures
December 26, 27: Starry Starry Night
January 2, 3: Snowman Magic
january 8, 9, 10: Penguin Magic

BOOK GROUPS

Tuesday, December 15

KNIT & LIT BOOK CLUB

Lynda Tuennerman hosts a social club for multitaskers—a book club and a stitchery group! She’s looking for readers who can enjoy intense discussion of modern classics while relaxing with their latest stitching project. Come share your passion for great literature and show off your knitting, crocheting, counted cross-stitch, embroidery and quilting works-in-progress. Tonight’s book is *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle* by David Wroblewski. **7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room**

Thursday, January 7

BOOKED FOR MURDER

Tonight’s book discussion is about *Secret History* by Donna Tartt
When a clique of Classics students from an elite East coast college stage a Dionysian frenzy, a local farmer ends up dead. It was an accident, but the secret slowly tears them apart and leads to more senseless death. In this spellbinding mystery-in-reverse, we learn “who” right away, but must wait to see how the pieces fit together. For more details, visit www.lkwdpl.org/bookclubs. **7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room.**

LEARNING LAB CLASSES

Reservations for computer instruction classes begin the first of each month. To register, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 127. We ask that all students come to class with a working knowledge of the mouse. If you need help, visit the Technology Center and ask the staff to set you up on our Mouse Training Program. It’s fun, easy and essential to becoming computer literate. All classes take place in the Main Library Learning Lab on the 2nd floor.

DECEMBER CLASSES:
Saturday, December 19: WEB SEARCHING BASIC@3:00 p.m.
Saturday, December 26: E-MAIL BASICS@3:00 p.m.

Sign-up for January classes begins on Saturday, January 2, 2010.

Saturday, December 19

FIVE STAR FILMS: II Postino

THIS PROGRAM HAS BEEN CANCELED. We regret any inconvenience.

Sunday, December 20

SUNDAY WITH THE FRIENDS: Christmas Carols and Jazz

Standards - See story below for details

Sugarplum jazz vocalist Kelly Wright celebrates the season with a little help from blues guitar master Pete Cavano. Gather around for fresh takes on frozen end-of-the-year favorites. Some of the best songs ever written only get played in December. **2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium.**

Closed on Thursday, December 24 and Friday, December 25

Library will close at 5 p.m. on Thursday, December 31 and be closed on Friday, January 1, 2010.

Saturday, January 9

BACK TO THE MOVIES: Five Decades of Cinema

The Fifties: High Noon (1952) - Directed by Fred Zinnemann - Not Rated
This Western classic stars Gary Cooper as Hadleyville marshal Will Kane, who is about to retire and leave town with his Quaker bride Grace Kelly when he learns that a group of men he sent to jail is due to arrive on the high noon train. With the Miller gang set on vengeance, the aging marshal has a little more than an hour to gather some deputies and make a stand. As director Zinnemann cuts to ever larger images of clocks, each person in the town has a reason why he can’t be part of the posse. Even his pacifist wife seems ready to desert him. Tex Ritter’s Oscar-winning “Do Not Forsake Me, O My Darling” resonates as Kane and the clock advance inevitably toward high noon. **6:00 p.m.in the Main Library Auditorium.**

Sunday, January 10

SUNDAY W/THE FRIENDS: Colin Dussault’s Rock and Blues Duo

Legendary harmonica-huffer Colin Dussault joins forces with hard-charging guitarist Jim Tigie for an afternoon of the kind of songs that make you want to quit your job and learn an instrument. Hold onto your ears for rock’n’roll, Memphis blues, and American folk from the best.. **2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium.**

Tuesday, January 12

Coffee with the Subconscious

Betty Rozakis employs the diagnostic science commonly known as handwriting analysis to provide people with an objective look at themselves and their circumstances. “Who am I? What am I doing with my life?” Betty takes you through the stages of her analysis with examples of common characteristics and corresponding psychological typologies. **7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium.**

Santa Loves His Jazz

By Ben Burdick

Tis the season for running yourself ragged with shopping, endless errands and exuberant celebration. Isn’t it time for a little break? On Sunday, December 20 at 2:00 p.m., the Friends of the Lakewood Public Library are proud to provide you with a relaxing Sunday afternoon program called Christmas Carols and Jazz Standards. Sugarplum jazz vocalist ‘ will celebrate the season with holiday help from guitar master Matt Soble. All weary souls are encouraged to gather ‘round for fresh takes on frozen end-of-the-year favorites. After all, some of the best songs ever written only get played in December...

So, who is this Kelly Wright person and what does she know about the spirit of the season? With a larger than life voice that can clear all the icicles off your house in one “parumpa pum pum,” this Lakewood native began singing in her sophomore year at Lakewood

High School. She traveled for three years with the vocal jazz group, The Roadshow, and performed all over the area, recording at Suma studios and earning trips to Western Michigan University to attend vocal jazz workshops.

Today, Kelly resides in Cleveland but calls Lakewood home, as her small business is here. Kelly and her sister Carrie are in their fourteenth year as co-owners of the popular breakfast stop, The Borderline Café. When she’s not pouring coffee or crooning tunes from the forties, she plays a mean tambourine and provides backing vocal for the local indie rock favorite, Anne E. DeChant.

This yuletide presentation is made possible, not only by the evergreen generosity of the Friends of Lakewood Public Library, but also by your fellow Cuyahoga County residents through Cuyahoga Arts and Culture. We’re sure that Santa’s support is somewhere in the mix, too. Thanks guys! Happy New Year!

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Lakewood Schools

Ranger Marching Band Heads To Cotton Bowl

by Christine Gordillo

After months and months of fund-raising that began shortly after school was out last June, the Lakewood High School Ranger Marching Band soon will be on its way to perform at the 74th AT&T Cotton Bowl Classic in Dallas on Jan. 2. One hundred ninety members of the band and 15 staff and parents will depart for Texas at noon on Dec. 30 from the high school.

The band's first stop will be to perform at LHS alumnus George Read's Dallas home. Mr. Read has been a longtime and generous contributor to the Lakewood City Schools' music program. On New Year's Eve the band will attend a dinner dance at South

Fork Ranch of "Dallas" TV show fame with 15 other high school bands that are participating in the Cotton Bowl Parade and Halftime Show. The Cotton Bowl Parade is New Year's Day afternoon in downtown Dallas. On Jan. 2, the band will be in the new Texas Stadium, home of the Dallas Cowboys, to perform for the Cotton Bowl Halftime Show. The band will return to Lakewood on Jan. 3.

Fund-raisers over the months, including car washes, bake sales, a garage sale, coupon book sale and the sale of ads and sponsorships for the annual Marching Band Festival in September helped pay for the trip's cost, which was \$700 per stu-

dent.

"I would definitely like to thank the Lakewood community, alumni of the band and others that made donations to help our band achieve this goal of this wonderful trip," said band director Brian Maskow, who singled out Mr. Read for his generous dona-

tions to the Music Department of more than \$500,000 over the past 11 years.

The Cotton Bowl will be nationally televised on Fox Sports and features Oklahoma State University versus University of Mississippi (Ole Miss). Kickoff is 1 p.m. Central Standard Time.



photo by Ivor Karabakovic



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Lakewood Schools

Salukombo competes in NCAA Championship

by Joseph Ott

2008 Lakewood High School graduate Makorobondo (Dee) Salukombo earned an individual spot at the 2009 NCAA Division III Men's Cross Country Championship held at the Highland Park Golf Club in Cleveland, Ohio on November 21. Dee, competing on the Denison University Cross Country team, earned this spot by placing second at the 2009 NCAA Division III Great Lakes Regional Championship held at the LaVerne Gibson Cross Country Course in Terre

Haute, Indiana on November 14, 2009. In addition, Dee placed first in five out of seven cross country meets this season for Denison.

Cleveland's Baldwin-Wallace College hosted the NCAA Division III Men's Cross Country Championship this year. This event had over 560 competitors with 32 Division III men's teams, 32 women's teams, and 56 individuals from all over the country. Dee finished 33rd overall out of 276 men's competitors with a time of 26:07.6 and was named All American. The 8k race

was won by Ricky Flynn of Lynchburg Virginia with a time of 25:09.8.

The only other Lakewood High School graduate earning a spot to run this NCAA Division III Championship event was 2008 Graduate Tim Kelly competing

with his team from Mount Union.

Dee is a sophomore at Denison University in Granville Ohio working towards a major in Chemistry and was an All-Ohio selection and a two-time athlete of the year at Lakewood H.S.



L.H.S. 2008 Graduate Dee Salukombo competes for Denison U. at the 2009 NCAA Championship



L.H.S. 2008 Graduate Tim Kelly (Mount Union)

Lakewood Grad Named OU Engineering Ambassador

by Colleen Carow

Monique Grier, a Lakewood native and Ohio University student studying industrial and systems engineering, has been recently chosen to join a select group of students at the university's Russ College of Engineering and Technology.

Grier, a junior, has been named to the Engineering Ambassadors for the 2009-2010 academic year.

The Engineering Ambassadors are a select group of undergraduate engineering students who help recruit students and also represent the Russ College to alumni and corporations. They lead tours, host distinguished alumni and support major events. Hand-chosen by departmental faculty, previous ambassadors and the Russ College dean, the ambassadors also contribute to a blog at <http://www.ohio.edu/engineering/ambassadors/blog> to show what it's like

to be a Russ College student.

Grier is former secretary of the Convocation Student Council and has participated in the Russ College's Pre-Engineering Program (PEP) and a peer mentoring program, LINKS. She is a recipient of the Kings/Chavez/Parks Scholarship and is active in the National Society of Black Engineers.

Grier has interned with Medical Mutual in Strongsville and is currently in the process of becoming a Big Sister for the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program. She is also planning to co-op next year.

"They're really enthusiastic about the experience that they've had in the Russ College," Masel said. "That comes across when they're meeting with prospective students and other guests, talking about the opportunities that they've had and what they've been able to do."

Lakewood Senior Receives Division 1 Hockey Scholarship

by Steve Hoffert

Lakewood High Senior, Tracy McCann is signing a National Letter of Intent to play Division One Hockey with Minnesota State University in Mankato, Minnesota. The Mavericks play in the Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) with Ohio State, University of Minnesota, North Dakota, Minnesota-Duluth, St. Cloud State, Bemidji State and 2008-09

National Champion Wisconsin.

Head Coach Eric Means is in his first season with The Mavericks and has seen Tracy play several times including last summers USA Hockey National Development Camp in Minnesota. He has said that he really likes her style of play and is very excited to have her play for him. Tracy's scholarship offer includes 90% of the total of all tuition, fees, books and room and board.

School Board Gets Down To Basics About Closing A School

by Betsy Voinovich

The Lakewood Board of Education met in a special session December 3 to listen to community input regarding the Board's upcoming decision to choose 2 of 3 elementary schools to keep open, because the State of Ohio will only fund the renovation of 2.

Particularly compelling was a Lincoln parent who said, although she had originally supported keeping Lincoln open, upon reading the findings about the high population density of families around Grant, she was reconsidering. She stressed that the decision had to be about what was best for the families and neighborhoods in all of Lakewood. Given that one fourth of Lincoln's student population is from other areas of the city, disrupting Lincoln's school neighborhood is less of an issue.

Following the public comment

portion of the meeting, Board Member Matthew Markling summed up many of the issues the Board had to consider. He first addressed the report provided by a Cleveland State professor, who had repeatedly referred to Lakewood as "Lakeview," when speaking at the Board's last public work meeting. Mr. Markling felt the conclusions reached in the professor's report were not supported by the facts.

Mr. Markling validated the density statistics provided by the Phase 3 committee, confirming that the greatest housing and family density is in the Grant school district. "People really do live South of the tracks and North of Madison," he said. Until this moment the Board had been silent when presented with the high density numbers of both students and family-friendly housing in the

Grant district.

He said, "Economic development seemed to be a bone of contention," referring to last-minute criteria added to the comparison of Grant and Lincoln at the September 15th Community Forum by one Phase 3 Coordinating Council member. Suddenly the Phase 3 Committee's research of nine months, intended to put a school near families and kids, was obscured by a discussion of the best re-use of property for Down-

town development. This issue was never part of the criteria issued to the Phase 3 Committee by the Board. Mr. Markling asserted that the school choice would be based on using school property for schools, and that economic development was not the responsibility of the School Board. Also, he did not consider the voting outcome of the Sept 15th Forum relevant, stressing that the Board respected the Phase 3 Committee's

continued on Page 17

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Lakewood Cares

LCAC Food Drive Provides Dinner For 300 Lakewood Families And Seniors

by Jeff Worron and Trudy E. Bell

One of the many reasons that Lakewood is a wonderful community to live was on display both on Friday November 20th and Saturday November 21st, when more than 100 volunteers and over a dozen corporate sponsors came together to gather, sort and deliver 2 large bags of food to each of 300 families and seniors in Lakewood. While the work was coordinated by Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corporation (LCAC), a 25-year-old community non-profit organization whose sole mission is to help those in need, it was the community as a whole that made it all happen.

“The goal of LCAC’s food drive was twofold,” says LCAC President Jeff Worron: “to help families in our community so they too can enjoy a holiday meal with all the trimmings, and to draw our community together to show we care about our neighbors and friends.” LCAC will feed approximately 300 families and seniors at Thanksgiving and an additional 300 at Christmas time, plus organize and conduct a Spring Cleaning Drive in May.

Network of Volunteers

“LCAC has no office and no phones—it’s a network of volunteers,” said Worron. The LCAC, which started as an offshoot of the Jaycees, consists of a 12 member, all-volunteer year-round board that raises funds as well as handles the logistics of buying, gathering and delivering the food. The board is proud of the fact that it has virtually no administrative expenses and uses all cash donations towards the purchase of food.

Although originally most of the food came from generous donations of canned goods and staples collected by students at Lakewood’s public and



250 of 300 Breadsmith loaves collected by Lakewood/Rocky River Sunrise and Noon Rotary Clubs occupied 26 boxes, along with four Sunrise Club Rotarians. Center (arms outstretched) is Trudy E. Bell, who coordinated the bread drive. At right is Doug Cooper, president of the Sunrise club. At left is Rotarian Bill Gaydos, who also serves on the LCAC board of directors. In the rear stands Larry Faulhaber, principal contact for the large commercial freezer at St. Luke’s Catholic Church, which stored more than half the loaves of bread.



The Cargill employees and families that volunteered identified themselves with special green T-shirts. Cargill owns Honeysuckle Farms that donated 250 frozen white turkeys to the LCAC.

parochial schools and most funding came primarily from individual donations, this year LCAC received significant contributions from several

corporate and civic organizations.

For example, for Thanksgiving Cargill not only donated generously to LCAC’s general fund, but also provided all the Honeysuckle White turkeys for the food drive. Also, Help to Others (H2O), an award winning student program operated by the City of Lakewood, partnered with student groups at Lakewood High School to donate food as well as raise funds to support the LCAC’S Christmas Food Drive on December 18th and 19th!

Plus, thanks to arrangements made with its coordinator of donations Crystal Pyles, Breadsmith contributed all 300 loaves of bread for Thanksgiving food drive and anticipates providing another 300 for the Christmas drive.

These donations, when combined together with labor or donations from other sponsors such as the Lakewood-Rocky River Sunrise and Noon Rotary Clubs, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Lakewood Kiwanis, St. Edwards High School, the Junior Women’s Club of Lakewood, LakewoodAlive and others, allowed the LCAC to meet its goal of feeding 600 families this holiday season!

Once the money has been raised, next came the task of determining who in our community could use our help. Each year the LCAC works with the Lakewood Christian Service Center,

the Lakewood Schools, and the team of social workers at the Lakewood Office on Aging to identify Lakewood families and seniors who would benefit from receiving these holiday food baskets.

The bread drive began in early October. Each Thursday and Friday at 7 PM when the bakery closed, Rotarians picked up unsold loaves, bagged them, and stored them in commercial freezers at various churches and other organizations for safekeeping until they were needed for the food drive. The single biggest donor of freezer space was St. Luke’s Catholic Church.

To pick up the Honeysuckle turkeys, Mike Porter and Larry Baldanza, board members from the LCAC, and Brett Miller from Cargill met the delivery truck from Honeysuckle. Once the Cargill team had transferred the turkeys into a truck that the LCAC had rented for the weekend, it was off to Giant Eagle to get the remainder of the fresh potatoes, frozen pumpkin pies, pounds of butter, and other perishables.

Meanwhile, back at the Masonic Temple, (which for years has donated space to the LCAC for their food drives), LCAC board members along with a dozen volunteers from the community and Cargill began sorting the thousands of cans of food, pastas and other nonperishables.

Task for Everyone

There was a task for everyone, no matter age or strength. On Friday, volunteers sorted nonperishables by type on long tables. That evening, under direction from LCAC board members, child volunteers at the end of each table placed a can or box into a plastic bag (donated by Cox Communications) held by strong teen or adult volunteers proceeding past. The filled bags were set against a wall and the process started anew until all 300 bags were filled--a process finished within an hour.

Saturday morning, the turkeys and other perishables, were unboxed and set up at outdoor stations next to the temple wall at the edge of the parking lot. Volunteers carrying a large reinforced

continued on Page 15

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Trees & Trimmings...the True Spirit of Giving

by Becca Armbruster

The City's youth volunteer program, H2O – Help to Others, held its first annual “Trees and Trimmings”

event and it was a huge success! We sent out flyers in holiday food baskets that were delivered to Lakewood homes at Thanksgiving and we had 17 families contact H2O hoping their names would be drawn to win a Christmas tree because they didn't have one. The responses came from all kinds of families and we were worried that we would not have enough trees.

When H2O's “Trees & Trimmings” collection took place on Sunday, we were amazed! Car after car kept coming and unloading huge loads of decorations, trees, lights and ornaments. We received 27 trees and endless boxes of ornaments and decorations. More community volunteers stepped forward to help deliver the ‘trees and trimmings’ to all the homes and even helped take leftover items to Lakewood Christian Service Center. I was incredibly happy to participate in this collection.


There are families here in our city

that needed help and we were able to give them a happier holiday season. The true spirit of giving was in the air

this past weekend and I am so thankful that our community showed us how much they care about each other.



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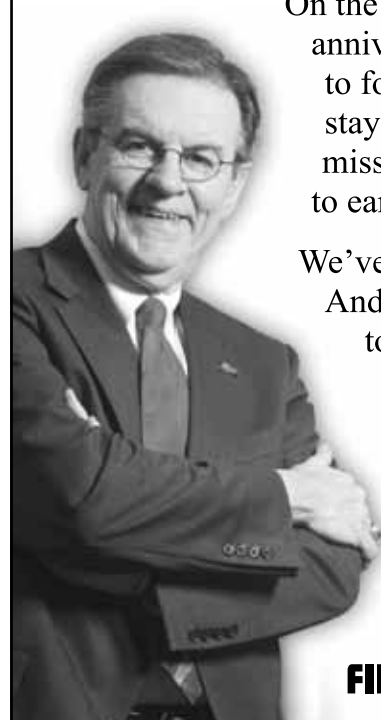
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Out & About

Free Christmas Concert Highlights Young Local Musicians

by Anne Palomaki

A Festive Christmas concert is planned for December 20 at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary at Lakewood United Methodist Church, 15700 Detroit Avenue, in Lakewood. The concert will feature accomplished Lakewood High instrumentalists including Jonathan Snyder, who will

play both the oboe and the English horn. Carter Strong, violist, Andy Peng, 1st violin, Abby Wimbiscus, 2nd violin, and Aubrey Kennedy, cello will play together in a string quartet. The brass quintet is made up of Bethany Zettler, trombone, Ian Schultz and Jacob Short on the trumpet, Jack Miller on the French horn, and Colin Bauman on the tuba. These students will play several Christmas carols.

There will be an opportunity for the audience to sing other favorite Christmas carols. Megan Denman, a graduate of Lakewood High and Baldwin Wallace will play the recently rebuilt Austin organ which has over 4000 pipes. Many of these students are studying at the Cleveland Institute of Music and plan to go on to various conservatories of music.

All are welcome to this free concert which is underwritten by the Miriam Albright Senior Ministry Fund at the church. It is a gift to the community to showcase the talents of our Lakewood students. We are encouraging families with children to attend. Invite your friends and neighbors for this beautiful Christmas gathering.



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Lakewood Recreation Aquatics Has A Lot To Offer

by Matt Demaline

The Lakewood High School Pool is featuring a new schedule of daytime programming, including Adult Swims, to compliment the existing schedule of Open Swims and evening programming. The Pool features convenient hours, very affordable admission and monthly pass rates, and plenty of close parking.

Get a head start on the New Year! There are a wide range of times available for swimmers – as early as 6:00am some mornings! Two popular sessions are the “early bird” session (6:00am to 7:30am on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays) and the afternoon swim session (2:30pm-3:30pm) Monday through Friday. Our newest session this season is the morning adult swim from 9:00am-11:00am during the week. For those looking for a place for children to swim, why not try our Friday night (7:30pm-9:30pm) or Sunday afternoon (2:00pm-4:00pm) open swims? For a complete pool schedule, please visit: www.lakewoodrecreation.com/PoolHours/ or call the pool at 529-4014.

Admission to the LHS Pool is very affordable: monthly passes, which allow the visitor to attend any adult or open swim session, are only \$25. Individual admission to an adult swim session is \$2.50, while open swim admission for students is \$3.50 and \$4.00 for adults.

To access the pool from the south, visitors should travel north on Robinwood Ave (from Madison Ave) until the street deadends at Lakewood High School. Ample parking is located in the lot just to the left of the building; the pool entrance is located under the overhang. To access the pool from the north, visitors should turn into the front drive of Lakewood High School and turn right into the driveway which leads to the rear of the school. This driveway will take you into the pool parking lot; the pool entrance is located under the overhang.

We hope to see you soon at the pool! Please feel free to contact Lakewood Recreation Department’s Aquatic Manager for information on all aquatic programs; he can be emailed at matt.demaline@lakewood.k12.oh.us, or reached at 216-529-4015.



SERPENTINI
Winterhurst Arena

Learn-to-Skate
Holiday Camp

Tuesday, December 22nd
Wednesday, December 23rd
Join us for a fun time! Meet new friends! Be creative!

Schedule	
9:45 am	Drop Off (sign in)
10:00 - 10:45 am	Off Ice Class
11:00 - 12:00 noon	On Ice Class
12:15 - 12:45 pm	Lunch (pizza & pop)
1:00 - 2:00 pm	Holiday Craft
2:10 pm	Pick Up (sign out)

For ages 7 and above. \$35.00 for one day. \$60.00 for BOTH days.
Register by Friday, December 18th by calling 529-4400
or stopping by in person at 14740 Lakewood Hts. Blvd.

Next Learn-to-Skate Camp will be offered Saturday, January 2nd.
Visit www.icelandusalakewood.com for skating times, programs, and events.

Holiday Happy Hours

Join us for this Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance “shop local” holiday event!

Each Saturday from December 5th to December 19th, participating merchants will have a Holiday Happy Hour special for their guests.

Details for each day are listed below.
Visit downtownlakewood.org for a list of participating vendors.

Downtown Lakewood:
Big enough to serve you, small enough to know you.

Saturday December 19
3:00pm-6:00pm Guys’ Happy Hours Men will be encouraged to come purchase the items indicated on ladies’ wish lists. Free gift wrapping will be provided by LakewoodAlive volunteers throughout Downtown Lakewood.



AROUND THE CORNER



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Out & About

Best In Northern Ohio The Winchester Music Hall

by Mel Page

The Winchester Tavern & Music Hall in Lakewood has been voted the Number One and BEST Live Music Venue in the Cleveland area by the 67,440 voters in the FOX 8 Television Hot List. The results of the 2009 voting were released a few weeks ago and The Winchester came out on top over the 2008 winner, The House of Blues finishing second! There were thirty seven venues to vote for in the Live Music Venue category.

The Winchester celebrated its 7th anniversary last Wednesday night with a special FREE “Holiday Mystery Show” to show thanks to all the music fans that voted it number one. I didn’t miss this chance to see and learn for myself just how incredible this music venue is. And despite the blistering cold wind how could I not make it when it’s just down the road from me in the Lakewood’s Birdtown area.

From the outside of the 1920s building, The Winchester, looks like it would be just a small tavern adjacent to the street. And there is the tavern room up front, but as I walk further to check out where the band would be playing I discover an amazing music hall space. Originally built as a bowling facility, all of that space now serves nicely for the large raised stage and tons of space for tables and chairs.

The Winchester is owned and

operated by Jim and Rebecca Mileti. While Jim oversees all the magic of running a good music venue keeping the artists and customers happy, Rebecca tends the tavern with good hometown-feel hospitality and a smile. Jim opened the business in 2002 and has committed to bringing quality music to an established music fan base. How lucky Lakewood is that he decided to do that here in his hometown.

The special mystery show that night turned out to be Neil Zaza who was in town to play at the Playhouse Square on Friday night with tickets starting at \$35. He was playing a holiday show with all the favorite classic holiday songs with a rock twist seaming them effortlessly in with some of the greatest classic rock songs ever. It was incredible and the comfort of the hall tops it off as now my favorite place to see a show in Northeast Ohio.

Whereas, this special showing was free, shows at the Winchester are always a bang for the buck. He has local artists, such as Robert Lockwood Jr., but also his line-up of regional and national musicians is expansive. Tickets typically range from \$5 to \$35. You can find most all types of music here except “the screaming in the mic” type as Jim states.

To give you a taste of the diversity of music some shows coming up are:

- Friday, December 18 – Ugly Radio Rebellion & Ike Willis
Frank Zappa Tribute with longtime Zappa band member;
- Saturday, December 19 – Joshua Jesty & Band – Alternative, Indie-Folk.
Voted Scene Best Solo Music Artist;
- Saturday, December 26 – Hal Walker – Multi-instrumentalist, one-man-band;
- New Year’s Eve, Thursday, December 31 - Into The Blue
(Play Greatful Dead) & Carl Carlton (Soul, Funk Vocalist);
- Saturday, January 2 – Monsters of Bass – Doug Johns Duo & Walter Barnes.
- Saturday, January 9 – Uzizi – Five piece alternative rock band with
12-member choir influenced by 19th century music.

You can vist www.thewinchester.net or call 216-226-5681 for more details and schedules. It is located at 12112 Madison Ave.



photos by Buzz

Holiday Thursdays

On Madison Ave.

Thursdays in December 5 - 8 p.m.

Over 70 Madison Ave. shops, studios, and restaurants will be open from 5 - 8 p.m. on December Thursdays. Come explore all the uniqueness and specialties that can be found right here in your neighborhood.

Sampling of Special Promotions

Steel Valley Credit Union - 12223 Madison - Each accompanied child enters raffle for \$25 savings bond and receives free gift. Hot Cocoa, cookies, and special appearance from Santa.

Silhouette Dance Fine Arts Studio - Free class and receive a Gift Certificate for \$10.00 toward tuition or merchandise. WEST Studio - 12501 Madison - Ages 4-6 at 4:00 pm; Age 7-10 at 6:00.

EAST Main Ballroom Studio - 15641 Madison - 8:00 pm DANCE-Fit with Miss Diane for adults.

Omega Cuts - 11833 Franklin - 50% off vintage & antique jewelry, accessories & free hair consultation.

Tess' Tender Touch - 14309 Madison - Free hot cocoa & 10% off \$25 purchase or more.

Metropolitan Home Staging & Design - 15226 Madison - Gift wrapping available. Make your own bookmark. 20% special off design services.

Wobblefoot Gallery - 1662 Mars - \$20 of \$100 or more purchase.

Goddess Blessed - 15729 Madison - Gift basket raffle prize.

Lakewood Hardware - 16608 Madison - door prize giveaway for gift certificates.

Cuttin' Loose - 16621 Madison - Walk-in haircuts \$10 off with free gift.

bela dubby Cafe' - 13321 Madison - Free cookie with any coffee drink or a free basket of popcorn with any beer. Movie night "Gremlins".

All-American Sports Collectibles - 13737 Madison - FREE pack of 2009/10 NBA basketball cards with \$10.00 basketball purchase! FREE LeBron James card with \$15.00 Basketball purchase! FREE pack of YUGIOH cards with \$20.00 purchase of any YUGIOH items!

Marrell Musical Instrument Repair - 13733 Madison - Guitar Packages includes 4 Lessons! Amp, Strap, Pick, Book, and Bag included. Electric-\$199; Acoustic-\$149; Bass-\$179. Enter to win a \$25 gift certificate!

West Side Skate Shop - 14047 Madison - All shoes \$60 or over are \$5 off. All jeans \$5 off. Free \$10 Gift Certificate with \$200 or more purchase. Big Shoe Sale - up to 50% off. Open till 9 pm!

Carabel Beauty Salon & Store - 15309 Madison - free manicure gift certificate with the purchase of a nail polish, great stocking stuffer!

Mars Bar - 15314 Madison - \$5.00 gyros.

Delta Computers - 15400 Madison - 15% off computer service.

Carol Lynns Salon Plus - 15410 Madison - When you come in on Thursday 6 pm - 8 pm we will be giving all customers a \$10.00 off gift card, and a weekly raffle to win a free haircut or manicure.

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1 Item	\$6.50	\$8.25	\$10.75	\$12.25
2 Items	\$7.00	\$9.00	\$11.75	\$13.75
3 Items	\$7.50	\$9.75	\$12.75	\$15.25
4 Items	\$8.00	\$10.50	\$13.75	\$16.75
Deluxe	\$8.50	\$11.25	\$14.75	\$18.25
Extra Items	\$0.50	\$0.75	\$1.00	\$1.50
Extra Cheese	\$0.75	\$1.25	\$1.75	\$2.50

BEST OF Cleveland 2009
Nunzio's Pizzeria
Presented by US Commerce Association

Lakewood Storefronts

Madison Businesses Pull Resources Together

by Robby Zettler

With over 250 businesses stretching three miles long Madison Avenue Merchants Association (MAMA) has been steadily growing and gaining ground in its mission to improve connections between Madison businesses with its surrounding community. More and more Madison businesses are coming together to meet, share ideas, and identify how improvements can be made for Madison. With the wide range of diversity among these businesses brings opportunity to share expertise with one another to help manage all the many aspects of running a successful small business.

A new MAMA program demonstrating this sharing of resources and expertise is the “Madison Project.” Its goal is to assist proprietors with window design and makeovers emphasizing the importance of curb appeal. Made up mostly of storefronts with generous windows, we could easily identify that many Madison businesses underutilize this important asset to help attract customers. Some struggle considerably, while some could just use a few touches to make a bigger impact. Any Real Estate Stager can tell you that one of the first rules of thumb is to grab them at the door! Did you know that buyers make a decision about a home within the first 30 seconds of seeing a house? That rule applies equally to business storefronts. Curb appeal is “word-of-mouth” advertising.

How does the project work? One Madison Ave. business per month interested in improving the “look” of their storefront is chosen. There is no charge for these services, although the storeowner must be willing to make a nominal investment in décor change.

The storeowner and myself discuss necessary changes and what the proprietor can afford to do. I make suggestions for color, design and subtle advertising.

I’m big on eliminating clutter. Many storeowners make the mistake of too much stuff in their window. For example, if you are a salon, you don’t need to state the obvious such as “Perms and Haircuts.” That goes without saying. However, if you do offer a unique service, it should certainly be out there.

Last month’s project was Cuttin’ Loose Style Salon located just west of Harding Middle school at 16621 Madison Ave. Salon owner and stylist, Christine Palmer was a willing participant interested in a new modern look. We started by choosing a color scheme. Blue and white were chosen to coordinate with her product line colors. This also gave the inside a “spa feel” by using stones in bowls to display product rather than country style baskets. We removed the shelving unit in the window that displayed her product line and replaced it with the seating arrangement for waiting clients. We replaced the outdated vertical blinds with multiple sheers tied at their center with decorative blue beads and wire. Between each sheer is a clear glass vessel filled with blue stones and a white candle, creating a straight line of clean symmetry in the window.

The salon name, Cuttin’Loose, at the top of the building in black block lettering was removed and replaced with a simple text in lower case white vinyl lettering along with phone number and website located right on the window. It is accompanied by a beautiful white graphic silhouette of a women’s hair blowing in the wind. The ocean blue door and white

graphics were chosen to coordinate with the interior colors. There are still a few minor details to be added. Such as white vinyl “WELCOME” lettering and street numbers on the blue door.

Good work, Christine! Although you and your staffs’ skills as talented stylists haven’t changed, your new storefront shows off your ability to be up-to-date on style and fashion. And being in an image industry as most of us are on Madison, that’s important! A book may not be

judged by its cover, but unfortunately, not as many will read it.

On a broader level, The Madison Project consists of a monthly newsletter with tips for improving storefronts, curb appeal and Madison Avenue’s overall appeal.

Robby Zettler is the owner of Metropolitan Home Design & Real Estate Staging located at 15226 Madison Ave. Included in her many design services is Storefront Makeovers.



Before the makeover the storefront tended to blend right into its surroundings missing a great opportunity to get noticed.



Below: Small changes and additions made a huge impact for increasing curb appeal for Cuttin' Loose Salon on Madison.

Virginia Marti Knows Window Appeal

by Mel Page

This holiday window display was designed and staged by Virginia Marti Fashion Merchandising students as part of their curriculum. Besides beautifying the college, various Virginia Marti students have assisted many Lakewood businesses as part of their curriculum and through internships. And many former students, such as the author of the above story, call Lakewood home and continue to contribute!

Last spring students gave

Lakewood Hardware and the neighboring empty building storefront a new look. Lakewood is fortunate to have Virginia Marti College of Art and Design (VMCAD) in our community using their talents to benefit Lakewood.

Come down and check it out yourself for some holiday spirit! VMCAD offers many areas of education in Merchandising, Graphic Design, Digital Media, and Interior Decorating. They are located at 11724 Detroit Ave. and you can find more info at www.VMCAD.edu.



Lakewood Cares

Certified Medication Aides In Long Term Care Facilities

by Tammy Sibert

The medication aide program is an exciting opportunity for State Tested Nursing Assistants (STNAs) to advance their education and climb the health career ladder. Since the pilot program began in May of 2006, STNAs have expressed a growing interest in the medication aide position. STNAs who are on the waiting list for nursing school have found this program to be very beneficial to their education.

After the pilot program ended on March 26, 2009, any long-term care facility or assisted living facility in the state of Ohio was able to employ certified medication aides, a group of employees who are making a huge impact on the nursing care of our residents. They are also having a positive impact on the nurses as well. At Lakewood Senior Health Campus, the nursing staff finds the medication aides to be a wonderful asset to the health care team. Nurses have long valued the team work that passes between the STNA and the charge nurse in long term care. With the addition of the certified medication aides, the team is further enhanced and functions very well. Medication aides are an integral part of the health care team and have been employed by facilities in other parts of the country for many years.

One of the purposes of the program is to reduce reliance on agency nurses; this obviously is realized in financial savings for the facility. Generally, the quality of care is also improved since regular staff members are more familiar with the residents and their needs and preferences. In addition, utilizing medication aides frees the nurses to spend more time with the residents, thus further improving the quality of care within the facility. The staff retention rate is increased; some of the medication aides have continued climbing the health career ladder by graduating from nursing school and joining the ranks of the professional nursing staff.

In order to become a certified medication aide, the applicant must meet certain criteria as established in the Ohio Laws and Rules Chapter 4723-27 ORC, which can be found on the Ohio Board of Nursing website. Before the STNA can enroll in the medication aide program, he/she must be a minimum of 18 years old, have either a high school diploma or GED, and be listed on the STNA Registry in good standing. An employee of an assisted living facility must have at least one year of direct care experience in a residential care facility. The prospective student must also pass a Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE). This test focuses on the individual's English and language comprehension skills, as well as math skills.

Training programs are required to provide a minimum curriculum of 120 hours which includes 80 hours of lecture/lab and 40 hours of clinical experience administering medications to residents. At Lakewood Senior Health Campus, the total classroom hours are greater than the minimum required, allowing more time to cover information such as: Medical Terminology, Dosage Preparation, Reference Sources, Proper Storage & Disposal of Drugs, Routes of Medication Administration, Six Rights of Medication Administration, Circumstances for Reporting to the Charge Nurse, Anatomy & Physiology of the Body Systems (related to medication usage), Basic Pharmacology, Role and Function of the Medication Aide, Proper Positioning of the Resident for Medication Administration, Obtaining Apical Pulse and Blood Pressure Measurements.

In order to successfully pass the program, the student must demonstrate competency in the practice lab and in the clinical setting. Before the student can participate in the clinical setting, he/she must have successfully completed the lecture and lab components. The student then applies to take the State Certification Test which is administered by D&S Diversified Technologies, an independent

testing organization. In order to pass the state test, the student must achieve 80% on the written portion of the test and perform the skills test without error. Lastly, the student must then submit an application for certification to the Ohio Board of Nursing. Each medication aide is required to obtain continuing education credits as well.

The medication aide is permitted to administer oral, topical, nasal spray or drops/ointment to eyes, ears, or nose, rectal and vaginal medications, and inhalants. The medication aide is not permitted to give the initial dose of a newly-ordered medication, or any schedule II drugs. He or she cannot give any injections, oxygen, or medications via a gastric feeding tube, or nasal-gastric tube, or administer IV meds, or medications that require a dose calculation. The medication aide is not allowed to receive any orders from physicians or other prescribing personnel. He or she works under the delegation of the nurse and does not make decisions to give "as needed" medications to the resident without first consulting with the charge nurse. They are a team working in harmony for the benefit of the residents.

More information on Medication Aides may be obtained by going to the Board of Nursing website: <http://www.nursing.ohio.gov/medicationAides.htm>

Ministerial Musings

By request...

by Rev. John Tamilio III

Every once in a while a reader will ask me a question. This one comes from a friend in Boston. She asked, "If a person is brain dead, where does his/her soul reside?"

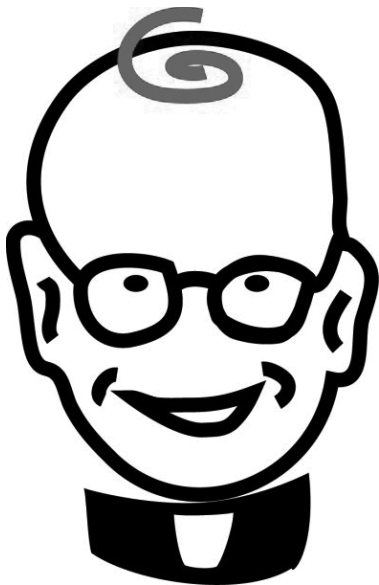
That's a good question. I'll take a stab at it.

Medical science used to define the time of death as the moment the heart stops beating. According to the popular online encyclopedia Wikipedia, brain death "is a legal definition of death that refers to the irreversible end of all brain activity." This has been the clinical definition since 1981 with the publication of the Uniform Determination of Death Act (UDDA). Section One of the act clearly states, death is determined when "An individual...has sustained either (1) irreversible cessation of circulatory and respiratory functions, or (2) irreversible cessation of all functions of the entire brain, including the brain stem..."

The American Medical Association (AMA) and the American Bar Association (ABA) — who worked with the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws and the President's Commission on Medical Ethics to draft the UDDA — both adhere to this definition.

But I am sure that my friend, who works in the medical profession, knows this better than I do. Her question is a theological one. She wants to know where is the soul in a brain dead person?

The most honest answer I can give is "I do not know." Only God knows. However, if I had to guess, I would say that it is in a state of process. Death itself is a process — it is a process through which we let go of this life and embrace the life that is to come. Some call it simply the end of the beginning. The soul, therefore, would be on a cusp, so to speak, between here and there. But maybe that happens when we are completely



dead as well.

Jesus said that the Kingdom of God is "at hand." That does not mean that it is right around the corner, about to reveal itself. It means that it is here, among us. The Kingdom of God is here — as well as there. It is the now and the not yet.

So, when we are in the process of dying — which I assume is the case if we are brain dead and the rest of our body is still pumping — then we are here as well as there. And then, when we fully pass into the Kingdom of God, are we not still partially here? That is where the realm of God is, after all, is it not?

The soul is eternal. It is the part of us that never dies. It lives here and it lives after our bodies stop living. So maybe the real question is where does the soul reside? That, to me, is not as important as the fact that it continues to bask in the presence of God, whether the body is quick or dead.

The shell that holds us cannot contain us. Living or dead, our souls are truly alive if they are living in God.

John Tamilio III, the religion columnist of The Lakewood Observer, is the Senior Pastor of Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ in the Tremont neighborhood. A musician, John lives with his wife and their three children in Lakewood, Ohio.

LCAC Food Drive

continued from Page 9

paper potato bag walked past outdoor stations for each of the items.

By 10:30 AM, all 300 bags had been filled and volunteers joined together in the final leg of the journey by lining their cars up for loading so that the food could be delivered right to the door of the various homes and apartments where our families lived. Many volunteers including students from H2O, St. Ed's and Rocky River Girls Soccer delivered the bags right to the doorstep of the families.

All in all it was the work of over 200 community volunteers and sponsors who came together to form a "human chain of support" to help sort,

pack, bag and deliver the food right to the door of Lakewood families. There is always need for additional help and donations. "Corporate donations make LCAC's limited dollars go further to feed more people," explained LCAC board member Ellen Todia. "For example, this year Breadsmith's donation saved us from having to purchase loaves of bread at a dollar a piece--a saving of \$600 that we can devote to feeding more families."

Another 300 food baskets (for different recipients) will be assembled the weekend of Friday, December 18 and the morning of Saturday, December 19. For more information on how to volunteer, please visit our website at www.LCAC.info.

Lakewood Authors

Lakewood Author Tells The Inside Stories

by DL Meckes

Lakewood author John Tidyman hesitates when asked to describe his new book, "Gimme Rewrite, Sweetheart: Tales from the Last Glory Days of Cleveland Newspapers (Gray & Co., Publishers, 254 pp., \$24.95)."

"The book is many things," he said. "Maybe first it's an informal, oral history of Cleveland newspapering in the '50s, '60s, and '70s. It's both eulogy and celebration. Also, Gimme Rewrite is a collection of first-person stories from the people who reported, photographed, and edited at the Cleveland Press and the Plain Dealer."

And what stories these men and women tell!

A chimpanzee answering the City Desk phone at the Press and then typing. A Plain Dealer chief police reporter promising to beat the tar out of a Cleveland police detective who had threatened one of his reporters. Big Jaw Jackson and Johnny Pot, two fictional characters brought to life by a bored but creative Plain Dealer police reporter. A Press columnist fired for drinking whose next job was selling toilet seat covers in the basement of May's Department Store. A Plain Dealer sportswriter landing the first punch on Sudden Sam McDowell's jaw.

Plus the big stories about crime and politics: Dennis Kucinich, race riots, school busing, hostage-taking, murder by bomb, the Kent State shootings, the Sheppard murder, and finally, the death of The Cleveland Press.

Tidyman said, "Some of the other stories might seem minor, but they reflect the times as well as the way reporters saw themselves in the com-

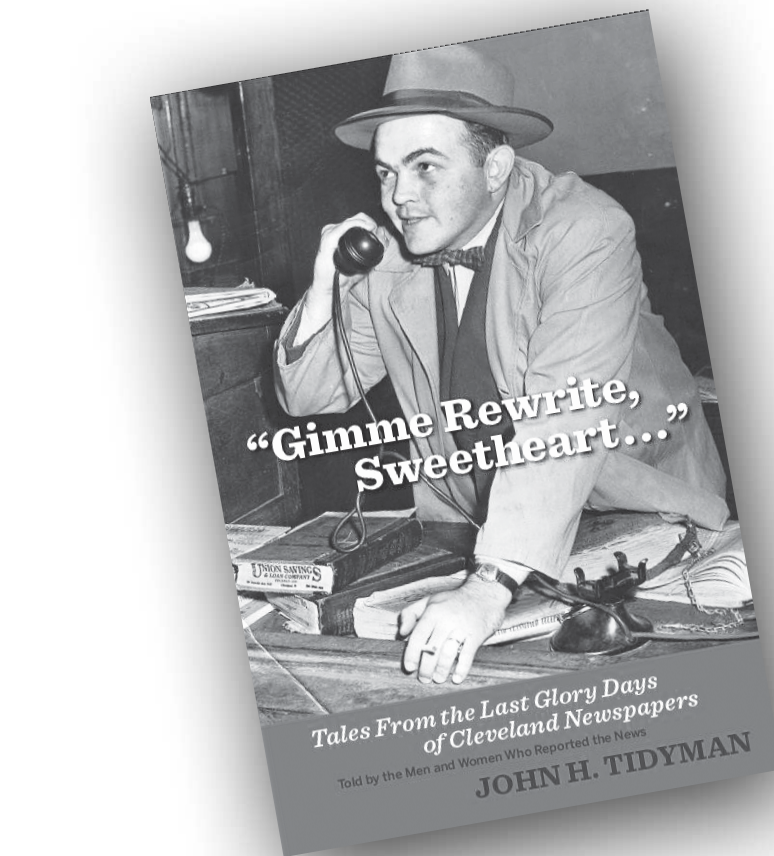


Photo of Robert E. Tidyman on the cover of the book is by his son Paul Tidyman

munity." Those stories include lost dogs, the death of a bum made famous with his sympathetic obituary, Ted Williams giving a batting lesson to a young sportswriter, and Zsa Zsa Gabor sashaying through the Press city room, stopping at reporters' desk to charm them with her smile and Hungarian accent.

The author pointed out Lakewood was a great supplier of talent: Press aviation writer Charles Tracy, Plain Dealer chief police reporter Bob Tidyman (the author's father, who is featured on the

cover,) Press sports photographer Paul Tepley, Press society writer Marge Alge, Press columnist Dick Feagler, Plain Dealer city editor Mike Roberts, Press Action Line columnist Jim Ryan, Plain Dealer copy editor and reporter Bob Daniels, Plain Dealer photographer Diana McNess, Plain Dealer columnist George Condon, Plain Dealer sportswriter Dan Coughlin, Plain Dealer religion editor Darrell Holland and Cleveland Press religion editor George Plagenz.

Tidyman said he wrote the book

because the newspaper era was almost gone in Greater Cleveland, yet many of its veterans remained. "Had to get them while I could," he said. Between the first and last interviews (there are almost 50), three contributors died.

Tidyman lives in Lakewood and said two classes at Lakewood High (Class of '67) were important in choosing a writing career. "J. Clark West was the journalism teacher and Robert Felty was the typing teacher; Mr. West showed me what went into a story and Mr. Felty showed me how to type it," he said. "Good thing they were there. I had to take algebra twice and barely passed, so a technical career wasn't on my wish list."

After serving in a combat unit in Viet Nam, he joined the Press as a police reporter. His work has been honored many times by Sigma Delta Chi, the journalism fraternity, the Press Club of Cleveland and Akron Press Club. He is the author of seven books, four of them for Gray & Co. They include Cleveland Cops: The Real Stories They Tell Each Other, The Cleveland Golfers Bible, and Fifty Great Golf Getaways.

He is also the producer and host for "When Johnny Comes Marching Home Again," a show for U.S. military veterans broadcast Sunday mornings on WCNX 98.5, and the web site, which podcasts the shows, is cleveland-warveterans.com.

Gimme Rewrite, Sweetheart (256 pp, hardcover, \$24.95 is available at Northeast Ohio bookstores, online from Amazon.com, and from the publisher's Web site. For more information, call Gray & Company, Publishers at 1-800-915-3609, or visit their Web site: grayco.com.

Book Helps Small Business Owners Succeed

by Judy Cerne

This economy is taking a toll on small business owners across the country. Yet amazingly, the number of new business start-ups and franchise ownership remains strong. With limited job options and an unprecedented string of downsizings and layoffs, displaced workers are choosing self-employment in an effort to take charge of their career. With nowhere else to turn, small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs simply cannot afford to fail.

In a new book by certified professional business and leadership development coach Diane Helbig, small business owners learn how to effectively sell their product or service to ensure they will succeed in any economy. In her book, *Lemonade Stand Simple: Accelerate Your Small Business Growth*, Helbig teaches small business owners, franchisees or anyone considering starting up a business how to avoid the pitfalls so many business owners make.

"People pour their heart, soul and life savings into their business. Then they struggle, or fail, because they simply do not understand the sales process. They don't sell effectively, and therefore don't

succeed. It's really hard to watch and completely unnecessary," says Helbig, whose career experience includes successfully educating and guiding individuals and teams to excel by applying one's strengths to create a personal sales style.

Fear is the worst enemy as a business owner. Fear plays with your head, it chips away at your confidence and paralyzes you with self-doubt, states Anita Campbell in the Foreword to *Lemonade Stand Simple*.

"To be successful, you have to overcome fear and all the baggage it saddles you with. This is the kind of book I wish I'd had early on when I started my business. Because it's really about overcoming fear," said Campbell, editor of *Small Business Trends*, an award-winning online publication for small business owners, entrepreneurs and the people who interact with them.

A good number of small business owners have a misconception about what sales is and are mystified by the varied aspects of sales—networking, marketing and what you do in front of a client. They either have it wrong or are terrified of the whole idea of selling or marketing their product or service. Sales isn't hard or

scary, and you don't have to do it somebody else's way, Helbig says.

Think back to your own lemonade stand days and the simple pleasure of selling refreshing drinks to family, friends and neighbors. You were certain of your product and you knew your client base, Helbig reminds us. You didn't get bogged down in the process, and you weren't afraid to be yourself. You knew what you were selling and who you wanted to do business with.

"The message in the book is that simple," Helbig explains. "Lemonade Stand Simple provides the clarity that business owners need to be more successful without trying so hard. It breaks down common scenarios, step by step, into techniques just about anyone can employ."

Lemonade Stand Simple resonates with business and sales professionals as well, who praise Helbig for her straightforward, back-to-basics method to selling.

"Diane provides the reader with a no nonsense approach to the sales process that is based in common sense. This book is essential for every small business owner who has to sell and provides

a workable sales plan that gets results simply by reading these pages," said nationally-read author Hal Becker, one of the top sales speakers and consultants in the country.

The book works because Helbig understands those salespeople and small business owners who think they need to fit their sales strategy into a methodology that is not authentic. She's here to remind us that we've all known how to sell since we were about five years old. It's simple—lemonade stand simple.

Lemonade Stand Simple is published by Sales Gravy Press and available online at Amazon.com, BarnesandNoble.com, Borders.com and SalesGravyPress.com.

About the Author

Diane Helbig is the founder of Seize This Day Coaching, a professional development coaching firm that helps businesses and organizations operate more constructively and profitably. She is widely published in the online sales community, with an article featured in Chicken Soup for the Soul: Power Moms: 101 Stories Celebrating the Power of Choice for Stay at Home and Work from Home Moms.

Pulse Of The City

A Half-Century Ago... Christmas In Lakewood-1959

A story only partly fictionalized....

Growing up in wintertime 1950's Lakewood, the first thing that comes to my mind was the snow...and lots of it, too.

My black, gum-rubber, over-the-ankle boots crunched silently through the early evening snowfall that threatened to double its depth in record time. The little black metal hookover-fasteners on those boots were thoroughly encrusted with an icy film as soon as our little family of three walked out of Geiger's. Dad had just picked up a new suit with which he could direct at the Harding winter concert, just a few days ahead. We then entered Carson's Dress Shop, where Mom picked out a beautiful gold trimmed white dress with white gloves accentuated with a gorgeous golden waist-jacket. That ensemble would be perfect for upcoming holiday parties and would show off Mom's equally golden hair.

It was the day after Thanksgiving, 1959, and it was the beginning of the Christmas shopping season.

The ice-laden frosty-framed downtown Lakewood store windows glowed with creative decorations and merchandise displays, and warm enveloping steam rose from the rusting curb grates along Detroit Avenue. Blue and white CTS buses mixed with yellow Checker taxi cabs and the usual rainbow-pastel hues of those huge-finned American cars jostling for parking spaces in the deepening snowfall. Here and there, the ubiquitous yellow "Fall-out Shelter" signs were clearly visible. (Just in case the Soviet Union should attack us in the dead of night.) In other suburbs around us and in downtown Cleveland, Nike anti-aircraft missile batteries and their crews were stationed in order to protect us from the Soviet Air Force.

It had been quite a year too. In January, Fidel Castro rolled into Havana and took over Cuba. Alaska and Hawaii

By Gary Rice



Young Gary in the Rosewood home, with a model bomber. Photo by Robert Rice

had both just been admitted as the 49th and 50th states. "Bozo the Clown," "Rawhide," "Maverick," "The Twilight Zone," "Dennis the Menace," and "Captain Kangaroo" were all on our black-and-white TV screens. "Rocky and His Friends" had just aired for the first time, only a few weeks before (featuring Bullwinkle the moose), as had the western show, "Bonanza." Locally, we watched Dorothy Fuldheim, Tom Haley, Doug Adair, Hugh Danaceau and Howard Hoffman on TV-8's news and informational shows. The "Sound of Music" had just opened on Broadway, and Richard Nixon and Jack Benny had also just played a piano and violin duet together on TV. NASA had just announced plans for the first 110 people to go up into space, and the U.S. test-fired the first Titan intercontinental missile.

Soon though, we trudged across the bustling street to Bailey's Department Store, where I found an excellent model bomber airplane for my week-end project. (I liked the American plane models because they often came in silver, so you didn't have to paint

them.) It seemed like everyone in Lakewood was at Bailey's that day, or if not at Bailey's, then just up Warren at Bearden's for some hot chocolate topped with whipped cream, as well as perhaps a juicy cheeseburger with a generous helping of fries... or perhaps, those great onion rings!

It's not long before we find our car, a 1955 black Ford sedan, with tire chains on the back for better traction on Lakewood's ancient red-brick streets. Before long, we are back home on Rosewood Avenue, the parents eager to relax and unwind, and me eager to set up the card table in my bedroom, unroll the oilcloth, and start to work on my airplane model.

It seems that every Christmas was special at our home. There were always dear relatives around. There was an endless flow of golden sugar cookies, decorated with scarlet and green-tinged sprinkles, as well as those soft, chewy peanut-butter cookies with the chocolate drop in the middle. There was always the sublime question as to whether to eat the cookie first, and the chocolate drop last, or vice-versa.

Our church too was always beautifully decorated and filled to overflowing on Christmas Eve. Dad would direct the children's choir, and I would anxiously await the end of the service, because that's when we opened our gifts back home, or most of them, anyway. There was always a special gift for me on Christmas morning though, under the tree--a special gift from Santa. Christmas Day, however, was so busy either visiting others or having others come to our home that we liked most of our family gift openings to be done in the quiet time of Christmas Eve.

That particular Christmas morning, there was a brand-new shiny red and white bike for me, with twin headlights and a horn too! Unfortunately, with the deepening snowfall accumulation, that bike's first ride would have to wait for awhile.

After a great black-tie Christmas dinner with the grandparents, I met my friends outside and we waxed up the runners on our flyer sleds, as well as the undersides of those red metal "flying saucer" dish-sleds. We then made our way to the Metroparks hills, or perhaps one of our parents drove us over to the sledding hill at Memphis and Tiedeman. Either way, fun was indeed had by all. Afterwards, our little red noses and reddened hands were soon warmed, along with our gloves and mittens, in front of crackling fireplaces, or near those clanking steam radiators.

Soon it would be time to return to school and celebrate a new year, and a new decade. The fifties were coming to a close, and the sixties were about to begin. As this young former Pennsylvania boy looked with anxiety out his frosted bedroom window up into the skies for a possible sighting of Santa's sleigh (or maybe Soviet bombers, or maybe even a flying saucer!), he wondered...

...what would the future really be like... for him, and for his world?

School Board Gets Down To Basics About Closing A School

continued from Page 8

decision to make no recommendation. He assured the audience, their decision would be the result of full consideration of much information provided by the Committee, and additional research.

He explained that school property is zoned for educational or recreational use. If school property was put up for sale, he suggested a strong likelihood of the buyer being a Community School (charter school) saying, "Community schools like White Hat will come in a minute and take any school we have."

He promised all in attendance that politics would not rule this decision. He said, "It is a myth that Lincoln School controls the power in Lakewood. It is not true when it

comes down to votes." He reported that statistically Grant and Lincoln parents vote in equal numbers, stressing this should just be about the kids, and what is best for kids in the entire city. "A kid is a kid," he concluded.

In a new development, the Board has begun talking about "alternative funding" to complete the renovation plan, leading one to think the State funding might be in jeopardy. This begs the question of whether Lakewood City Schools might consider opting out of the State's requirements and focus instead on making decisions in Lakewood and for Lakewood.

Residents brought up the issue of keeping seven schools, questioning whether a conclusive amount of research had been done to close another school. Interestingly, only Grant and Lincoln have Excellent rat-

ings from the State of Ohio. Many would consider a District crazy to close an Excellent school, especially Grant, where one in ten students speaks English as a second language. In this case, despite being in old, unrenovated buildings, teaching and learning flourish.

As Jan Soeder, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education explained, maintaining school communities is important to the District. With six schools we have very little wiggle room: if enrollment goes up, we either keep our neighborhoods together and have very large class sizes- or we have children traveling far beyond a walkable distance.

Perhaps a bond issue could raise enough money to finish the High School and make necessary repairs on our existing seven elementary schools; the amount needed for this

could be less than that needed to match State funds (which may now be in question) for full renovations. The full renovation/demolition and cost of transition both in terms of money and disruption of students/families and teachers could wait until the economy recovers. Perhaps at that point, we can better determine whether- given Lakewood's enrollment numbers were up by a hundred students this Fall, and some of our class sizes are as high as 30 students per class right now- we actually need to close another school.

The attendees were pleased the Board took the time to host a community input session, and appreciated that their voices were heard.

Meetings are videotaped and air on Cox Cable, Channel 74. A schedule is available on the Lakewood City School's website.

Home For The Holidays

Gift Becomes Priceless Family Treasure For Future Generations

by Bonnie Greenberg

You might have read a recent article from the LO Nov. 4th issue titled, “5 Couples Celebrate 266 Years of Marriage”. The second-longest married couple, Betty and Don Wilson, received two special gifts from their daughter, Mary, on their 64th wedding anniversary in September. One was a DVD with pictures of the highlights of the couples lives together (including them as teenagers, wedding pictures and pictures of Don in his Air Force uniform) set to music from their era. The other anniversary gift was a beautiful, hard-cover, bound 8 X 10 inch book with more pictures of the couple and their family thru the years. Both precious gifts took on new meanings to Don and his children when Betty passed away last week. Now Don (who resides at Crestmont North Nursing Facility) is able to view the DVD of him and his beloved wife and children on a big screen TV, and he can look thru his hardcover “Love Story” and reminisce about the love of his life as he treasures the memories of their “Happily Ever After” at any hour of the day or night.

As an Activity Director in long-term healthcare I would suggest that families put their parents or grandparents “Life Story” (in photos they already

have) onto a DVD to be preserved forever. This gift to your elderly loved ones (especially those with dementia or Alzheimers Disease) can be a powerful tool in triggering the memories that remain. If you are not tech-savvy you can give the photos to a family member who is, or there are many services available to put home movies, slides and/or photos onto a DVD. There is also software available to touch-up slides that might be in poor condition. Many stores or on-line websites who develop photos offer the hardcover, bound book for very reasonable rates; the books vary in pages and number of photos that can be used. Walgreens recently offered a 12 page Memory Book for \$10.00. For



Don and Betty Wilson dance at their 64th wedding anniversary

nursing home use I recommend the DVD over the book; several copies can be made for all family members. Google offers Picasa, a free download where your pictures can be edited. These DVD's are

the same as those used at wakes, but I encourage families to create them now while their loved ones can enjoy them, because, after all, they are the stars of the show.

Foster A Lonely Pet For The Holidays

by Dawn Pyne

Citizens Committee for the Lakewood Animal Shelter and Petfinder.com are participating in the national “Foster a Lonely Pet for the Holidays” pet fostering program. Across the country, over 13,000 pet rescue organizations are trying to empty their kennels for Christmas, encouraging members of the public to invite a pet home for the holidays. People interested in making this Christmas a happy

holiday for a pet in need or who want more information should contact by email cclasfoster@yahoo.com. The organization has an average population of 100 adoptable dogs and 400 adoptable cats. They can be viewed online at www.petfinder.com. The goal for the “Foster a Lonely Pet for the Holidays” program is to have each of these pets into a home by noon on December 20.

PURR-fect Calico For Adoption

by Dawn Pyne

Available for adoption through the Lakewood Animal Shelter, Ellie (collar number 413) is a model-like calico kitty who's sleek with large almond shaped eyes. She tilts her head when she's listening to you and is a real sweetheart with a loud purr! Recently spayed by CCLAS, she's looking for a good home for the holidays. Unfortunately, she was mistreated by her previous owner, terrified by the vacuum, and ended up pregnant hiding in a corridor of an east side Lakewood apartment building. Ellie was fortunate to leave the shelter in mid-October and has been living in foster care since then. She been a PURR-fect house guest, but her foster family

can no longer keep her since their own cat is terminally ill and requires a lot of attention. She's very playful, loves to chases a laser light and run around with a feather toy. She tested negative for FIV/FELV, is spayed, dewormed, and vaccinated for FVRCP and rabies. She's an excellent patient at the Vet office and she purrs frequently while there. Also quiet during car rides. This animal is in foster care but are available for adoption through the Lakewood Animal Shelter, contact for more information cclaspromo@yahoo.com. Lakewood Animal Shelter can be reached at (216) 529-5020 and www.cclas.info.




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Home For The Holidays



Celebrate Lakewood History Horses And Plants – Loved It In Its Time

by Mazie Adams

It may look like a concrete bathtub, but it's really a curbside water trough, the last of many the city kept full of water for horses at the turn of the last century. Each had an enclosed compartment at one end with a tank ball similar to that in a toilet. As water entered from the bottom, via a hookup with city pipes, the tank ball would rise, shutting off an intake valve when

the trough was full. There was a trough on the west side of Warren just south of Detroit; on the south side of Detroit 100 feet west of Warren; beside Cook's Grocery on the north side of Detroit at Grace; at Madison and Warren; and on the north side of Madison between Grace and Cohasset. This one is on a tree lawn at the corner of Clifton and West Clifton. It is filled with soil and has been used as a planter since 1955.

Feed Me! Sub Shop Will Make You Famous

by Matt DeGrandis

Feed Me!, a catering company since 2006 announces the introduction of its newest venture Feed Me! Subs!, located in Lakewood at 13611 Detroit Ave. The locally owned and operated Sub Shop pays homage to our beloved city. Their signature subs are named after Cleveland celebrities. You can order gourmet with a Drew Carey-Grilled Chicken, Provolone, Lettuce, Carmelized Onions, Roasted Red Peppers and Pesto Mayo. -Sliced Ham, Swiss Cheese, Lettuce, Tomato and Mustard Sauce. All Subs are offered on a Sub Roll, Ciabatta Sub or Wrap.

Customers are also given the opportunity to create their own sub and name it, or as Feed Me! calls it, "Be The Sub". Create your own sub and name it. Feed Me! will save your customized named sub in the their computer for your future orders. Be sure to add hand-cut fries with your order and don't forget the fry sauce.

"I am very excited about the addition of the Sub Shop to Feed Me!" says owner Matt DeGrandis. "For four years we have been mostly corporate and pharmaceutical rep caterers delivering throughout greater Cleveland. We now have a chance to connect with our local community."

Don't Forget "Light The Night"

Lakewood's Neighborhood Block Club Program is encouraging residents to leave their porch lights on at night as a safety mechanism. Many crimes happen at night and the block clubs are hoping that lighting the neighborhood just might help deter crime.

As part of the Light the Night campaign, the City has partnered with Lakewood Hardware, 16608 Madison Avenue, to offer residents affordable high-efficiency light bulbs. During the month of December, Lakewood Hardware will sell two 75-watt high-efficiency light bulbs for \$5.00. They will also provide a recycling container in their store to recycle burned out light bulbs.

Mayor Ed FitzGerald. "With the block clubs promoting their Light the Night Campaign, we decided this was the perfect time to promote the use of high-efficiency bulbs and partner with a Lakewood business to make it easy and affordable for our residents."

Residents can purchase the discounted high-efficiency light bulbs at Lakewood Hardware throughout the month of December. Want to start a block? Contact Mike Tuttle, Lakewood Block Club Coordinator, at (216) 529-6657.

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